Chopin Society UK

CHOPIN SOCIETY

LONDON

NEWSLETTER

Autumn—Winter 2023

VENUE & TRAVEL INFORMATION
for our main venue

Westminster Cathedral Hall (behind the Cathedral)
Ambrosden Avenue London SW1P 1QW

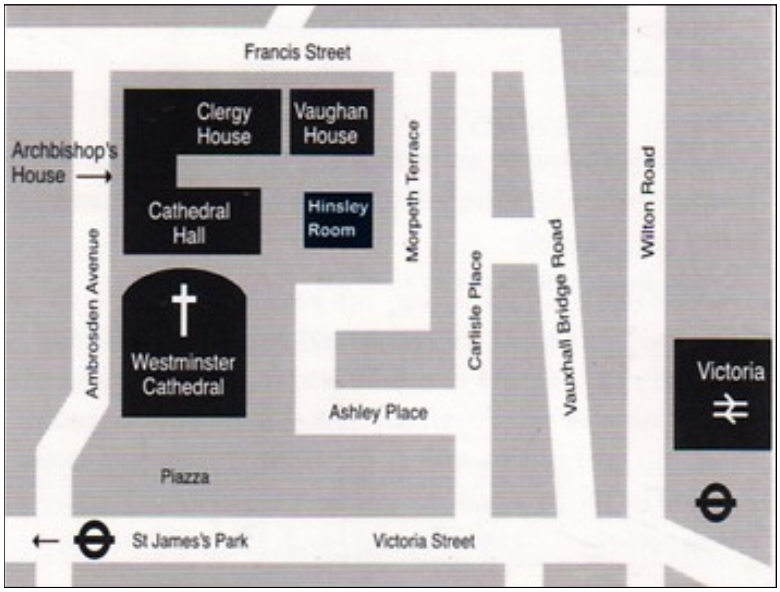
Cathedral Hall was designed by Cathedral Architect John Francis Bentley, and represents some of his finest work. When completed in 1902 it was originally known as Chapter Hall, and was used for liturgical services until the Cathedral itself was permanently opened on Christmas Eve 1903. Retaining the exquisite Edwardian features of its original design, it boasts excellent facilities, and is fully accessible to wheelchair users.
The Hall can seat up to 280 and the Chopin Society are using it for the majority of their events in 2023-24. Doors open 45 minutes before the start of the recital. You are requested not to arrive any earlier than that.

GETTING THERE COULDN'T BE SIMPLER

Trains: Victoria mainline station.

Tube: Victoria or St. James's Park (less than 5 minutes' walk).

Buses: nos.16, 38, 44, 52, 73, 82, 170, 185, 239, C1, C2 and C10 to Victoria station, or nos. 11, 24, 211 or 507 stop right outside the Cathedral.



For a clearer version of this map and a picture of the Hall, visit www.chopin-society.org.uk/venues

Concert Diary
at Westminster Cathedral Hall

Sunday September 24th at 4.30pm
(preceded at 3.00pm by the Society's AGM)

VITALY PISARENKO recital
Chopin, Schumann, Prokofiev, Ravel
Members of the Chopin Society: FREE
Friends of the Chopin Society: £10, £8 (seniors over 60)
Non-Members: £16, £14 (seniors), £8 (students)
Tea tickets: £10, £5 (students), £4 (Youth Members)

Sunday October 29th at 4.30pm

PIERS LANE recital
Rachmaninov & Chopin
Members of the Chopin Society: FREE
Friends of the Chopin Society: £10, £8 (seniors over 60)
Non-Members: £16, £14 (seniors), £8 (students)
Tea tickets: £10, £5 (students), £4 (Youth Members)

Sunday November 26th at 4.30pm

MARTINO TIRIMO recital
All-Chopin
Members & Friends of the Chopin Society: FREE
Non-Members: £16, £14 (seniors), £8 (students)
Tea tickets: £10, £5 (students), £4 (Youth Members)

TO BOOK
Tickets go on sale approximately one month before the performance date
Members & Friends should contact the Chopin Society Office
on info@chopin-society.org.uk or phone 0203 144 0033
Non-Members please search the website
WeGotTickets.com.
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FOR OTHER CONCERTS *
(including a Christmas Members' Matinée)
See pages
8 & 10

** THESE 2 CONCERTS ARE ONLY OPEN TO THE CHOPIN SOCIETY.*
BOOKING FORMS ARE INCLUDED WITH THIS MAILING
FOR ALL PAID-UP MEMBERS & FRIENDS

ARTIST NOTES & PROGRAMMES

September 24th at 4.30pm
VITALY PISARENKO recital

After winning some of the most important international awards, including the First Prize at the 8th International Franz Liszt Piano Competition in Utrecht and the Third Prize at the Leeds International Piano Competition (2015), London-based Ukrainian-Russian pianist Vitaly Pisarenko has been steadily gaining worldwide recognition.

Critically acclaimed as a pianist of unusually soft touch, prodigious technique and captivating expressiveness, Vitaly has performed in over 30 countries, including solo recitals at Wigmore Hall, the Musikverein in Vienna, Bozar in Brussels, Moscow Philharmonic Recital Hall, National Center for Performing Arts in Beijing, Shanghai Concert Hall, Mozarteum in Salzburg, de Singel in Antwerp, Toyota Concert Hall in Japan, Hong Kong City Hall, Salle Cortot in Paris and Palace of Arts in Budapest.

He has also played with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, National Philharmonic Orchestra in Warsaw, Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, London Mozart Players, Noord Nederlands Orchestra, Brno Philharmonic Orchestra on tour in Japan, KBS Symphony Orchestra, Het Gelders Orchestra, the YMSO and others performing at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Cadogan Hall in London, Big Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire,Tokyo Opera City, Seoul Arts Center, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Sala San Paulo in Brazil and De Doelen in Rotterdam among others.

The Association of Music Critics of Argentina recently presented Vitaly with the '2018 Revelation Award'.

Vitaly Pisarenko will play:

Chopin—Polonaise in A Major Op. 40/1
Chopin—Polonaise in D minor Op. 71/1
Schumann—Davidsbundlertanze Op. 6
Prokofiev—10 pieces from Romeo and Juliet ballet suite Op. 75
Ravel— La Valse

October 29th at 4.30pm
PIERS LANE Recital

Piers Lane AO, who lives in London, is one of Australia's most renowned and engaging performers.

Always in demand worldwide as soloist and collaborative artist, highlights include a performance of Busoni's mighty piano concerto at Carnegie Hall, premieres of Carl Vine's second piano concerto and double piano concerto (with Kathryn Stott) *Implacable Gifts,* both written for him, and annual solo recitals at Wigmore Hall. His 2023 engagements include appearances in Dubai, New Zealand, Portugal, the UK, the USA and throughout Australia. In July he chaired the jury of the 2023 Sydney International Piano Competition and has recently adjudicated the Horovitz Kyiv-Geneva Piano Competition, the Michael Hill Violin Competition in New Zealand and the Clara Haskel International Piano Competition in Vevey. He has been Artistic Director of the Sydney International Piano Competition since 2015 and is responsible for recent initiatives like the 2021 Online Piano Competition, the Piano Lovers' amateur competition and Composing the Future.

His concerto repertoire of over 100 works has led to engagements with many of the world's great orchestras. 5 times soloist in the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, Piers gave the centenary performance there of Sir Arthur Bliss's piano concerto. His appearances at Carnegie

Hall include the New York premiere of Ferdinand Reis's eighth concerto for the debut of TŌN The Orchestra Now.

Piers performs frequently at prestigious festivals was Artistic Director of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music from 2007 to 2017, and directed the annual Myra Hess day at the National Gallery in London from its inception in 2006 until 2014. He has recorded more than 70 CDs and has premiered works by composers like Brett Dean, Colin Matthews, Richard Mills, Carl Vine and Malcolm Williamson. Collaborations with Tasmin Little CBE, Dame Patricia Routledge and the Goldner String Quartet have been of major importance. He has written and presented over 100 programmes for BBC Radio 3.

He holds honorary doctorates from Griffith and James Cook universities, is an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music, was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (OM) in 2012 and in 2022 was presented with the Sir Bernard Heinze Award for service to music in Australia.

Piers Lane will play:

Rachmaninoff—
Prelude in C# minor Op. 3 No. 2
Preludes Op. 23: Nos. 1 in F# minor; 4 in D major; 6 in Eb major and 10 in Gb major.
Variations on a theme of Chopin Op. 22

Chopin—
Polonaise in A Op.40 No.1
Nocturne in F Op.15 No. 1
Mazurka in C# minor Op. 50 No.3
Waltz in Gb Op. 70 No.1
Nocturne in Ab Op. 32 No. 2
Mazurka in D Op. 33 No.2
Tarantelle
Mazurka in C Op.67 No.3
Prelude in A Op. 28 No. 7
Waltz in C#minor Op. 64 No.2
Valse Brillante in Eb Op.18

November 26th at 4.30pm MARTINO TIRIMO Recital

"A formidable virtuoso and one with unmistakeable magnetism." *The Guardian*

"Tirimo's playing belongs to a past generation of 'greats'. Listening to him I conjure up aural images of Solomon, Arrau, Kempff, Serkin, Schnabel and Rubinstein. Throughout the evening one was consistently aware that this supreme musician placed himself entirely at the service of the composer."
Bill Newman, Music and Vision

Martino Tirimo was born into a musical family in Cyprus and began piano and violin lessons with his father, a conductor and violinist. He gave his first concert at the age of six and when only twelve he conducted seven performances of Verdi's La Traviata, including soloists from La Scala, Milan.

At the age of thirteen his family moved to London and he continued his education at Bedales School. At sixteen he won the Liszt Scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music, graduating with the highest honours, after which he completed his studies in Vienna. He later worked closely with Gordon Green, whom he regarded as his greatest mentor. In 1971 and 1972 victories in the International Piano Competitions in Munich and Geneva launched his international career.

He has appeared with many of the world's leading orchestras, including all the major British orchestras and those in Berlin, Cleveland, Dresden, Leipzig, Munich, Prague, Vienna and other centres, with conductors including Barbirolli, Boult, Pritchard, Kurt Sanderling, Masur, Norrington and Rattle.

He has also directed from the keyboard several cycles of the five Beethoven

Concertos with the Dresden Philharmonic, both in Germany and at the Royal Festival Hall in London. He has often appeared with this orchestra both as soloist and conductor.

Hänssler Classics have just released a boxed set of 16 CDs of all the solo piano works of Beethoven, recorded at the Gewandhaus in Leipzig.

Martino Tirimo will play:
Chopin— 3 Mazurkas Op. 59;
3 Nocturnes; 3 Waltzes;
Barcarolle in F sharp Op.60;
Sonata No.3 in B minor Op.58

A VERY WARM WELCOME to the latest CHOPIN SOCIETY MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Ms. Angela Adams
Mr. Krzysztof Cemke
Ms. Naomi Clear
Mrs. Marzena Konarzewska
Mr. Ian Lowe
Mrs. Maya Parker
James Rees
Mrs. Lala Wilbraham

If you are not already a Member, now is a good time to join.

For details see page 11.

A POLITE NOTICE

The doors officially open 45 minutes before our concerts start, which gives plenty of time for people to find a seat and settle in.

We would really appreciate it if audience members didn't arrive any earlier than this.

Immediately before a recital the Steinway tuner is hard at work, or sometimes the pianist is warming up. Neither of them needs the background noise and distraction of an audience coming in and watching their every move.

Also the Society's Committee and caterers must have time to set everything up.

Thank you for your understanding.

The Chopin Festival

Polish Social and Cultural Centre POSK, 238-246 King Street, London W6 0RF

Saturday 21st October 2023

CHOPIN EXHIBITION

Provided by the Fryderyk Chopin National Institute in Warsaw & produced by the POSK Library

TALKS

Lady Rose Cholmondeley assisted by Mr. Charles Grant " Chopin in Majorca "
President of the Chopin Society UK and the Co-Chairman

Dr Ewa Sławinska-Dahlig " Pupils of Fryderyk Chopin "
Director General of the Fryderyk Chopin Society in Poland

Professor John Rink 'How did Chopin Play?
Professor of Musical Performance Studies in the Cambridge Faculty of Music

GALA CONCERT

Jakub Kuszlik
Laureate of the **18th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition** and the Polish Radio Prize for best mazurka performance. 2nd prize in the X International Ignacy Jan Paderewski Piano Competition.

Adam Palma is an extraordinary and accomplished guitar player. His album "Adam Palma Meets Chopin" was the first album to present Chopin's compositions in arrangements for the acoustic guitar. He is a professor of musical arts, lecturer at the University of Salford and at the Music Academy in Gdańsk.

Alina Bzhezhinska & Margaret Preston (Harp and Flute Duet)
Alina is undoubtedly one of the leading harpists in the world today. She studied Classical Harp at the Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw and performed at Balmoral Castle for HM the Queen's 80th Birthday. **Margaret** has a busy concert schedule playing orchestrally with the Aberdeen Sinfonietta.

Mateusz Borowiak
was awarded top prizes at international piano competitions including The Queen Elisabeth in Brussels and the Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe. He has released a number of critically acclaimed CDs, continues to give masterclasses and is currently assistant professor at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland.

CHOPIN JAZZ

Stephen Ellery is a multi-instrumentalist and orchestral conductor. Notably he conducted a 65 piece London Gala Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall in 2018 at the "STO LAT" Concert celebrating 100 years of Poland's return to Independence. As a saxophone player he has performed at music festivals and played on many recordings.

Tickets at EVENTBRITE

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-chopin-festival-gala-concert-tickets-669834812957

A CHRISTMAS MEMBERS' MATINÉE
on Sunday 10th December

At Carlisle Place

By kind permission of Leslie MacLeod-Miller

3.30pm for 4.00pm

We are very grateful to our Member and Legal Advisor, Leslie MacLeod-Miller, for hosting another Matinée in his gorgeous flat. The Committee would like to thank him most sincerely. Our Members' Matinées continue to be heavily over-subscribed, and are absolute highlights in the Chopin Society's year.

The President & Committee are anxious everyone should understand the nature of these rather special concerts. "Members' Matinées" are exactly that. They are primarily for the benefit of our pianist Members and their friends. No advertising takes place, and the general public is only admitted as the guests of Members. These events are free to performers, but Members and guests must pay £14.

It must also be pointed out that these informal afternoons are not part of our standard concert series. No auditions are held, and the programme is planned around the repertoire offered, rather than the standard of the performers. Anybody who can play the piano to at least Grade V standard (adult beginners, amateurs, students & professionals) is welcome to take part. No performance fees are paid.

So, to come to a Members' Matinée expecting a uniformly professional standard of playing is to miss the point entirely, and we feel sure that the majority of our Members understand this very well.

Playing in public is an ordeal at first of course, but a necessary one. Like all the arts, music is a form of communication; a way of sharing experiences and emotions. And after all, there is nothing quite as encouraging to the performer as some well-earned applause! Amateur pianists in particular need the motivation of working towards a performance date. It helps concentrate the mind and results in steady progress. Piano teachers are therefore very keen on performance opportunities for their pupils— but in reality these are few and far between.

We like to think we are carrying on a tradition from Chopin's day, when playing an instrument was an important social skill, and concerts and impromptu performances of all kinds were often given amongst friends in private houses. In the days before mass entertainment it was a popular pastime at all levels of society.

Pianists should think carefully about what they would like to play. As a general rule it is advisable to choose pieces that are well within your capabilities and not to be too ambitious.

If you have taken part in a Members' Matinée before, we would prefer you not to play a piece you have recently played at an earlier Matinée.

Newcomers should know it is not necessary to perform Chopin. Some people do of course, but it's always nice to have a mixture of composers. If people want to perform their own compositions, they must bring a copy of the music, as improvisations are not allowed.

Important! People who have played at a Members' Matinée cannot say in their CVs they have performed for the Chopin Society. It is not a professional engagement.

Booking form enclosed. You are strongly advised to book early to avoid disappointment, as seats and pianist slots are strictly limited.

The full venue address plus travel directions (if requested) will be sent to successful applicants with their tickets.

Check the expiry date on your membership card and

PLEASE RENEW

if you have not already done so!

If you fail to renew, this is the last edition of the Society's Newsletter you will receive.

Lost your renewal form?
Just send payment with a note.
You can send a cheque to
Secretary Gill Newman
Chopin Society Renewals
97A Onslow Square
LONDON SW7 3LU

Or pay into the bank:
Account. No: 00257937; Sort code: 30-94-81
giving your name & "RENEWAL" for reference.

Thank you.

YOUNG ARTIST RECITAL AT STEINWAY HALL

44 Marylebone Lane London W1U 2DB
(nearest tube: Bond Street)

Thursday September 14th at 6.30pm
Pianist: ALANNA CROUCH

For a long time we have hoped to present more concerts by young pianists, but until now have not had the opportunity to expand from our regular venue in Victoria. Craig Terry, Managing Director of Steinways in London, has now kindly offered us the use of Steinway Hall as one of the venues for what we hope will prove to be a regular series.

16-year-old British pianist, ALANNA CROUCH, was invited to perform a Mozart piano concerto in Barbados at the age of 5 and has since performed in the UK, USA and Barbados, appearing at venues including Frank Collymore Hall, Brunswick House, Lansdowne Club, Savile Club and Steinway Hall UK.

Alanna began her studies with Tom Donald of London Contemporary School of Music and currently studies classical piano under Christine Croshaw of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, and music analysis and composition with Prof. Dr. Bohdan Syroyid from the University of Salamanca (Spain). When she was 7, she attained high distinctions in ABRSM Grade 5 Jazz and ABRSM Grade 8 exams and went on to become the youngest person to pass the DipABRSM at age 8. Alanna was chosen as one of the Honorable Mention Winners of the American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition 2016 and performed at the winners' concert at Carnegie Hall, New York. At 12, Alanna was awarded The Geoffrey Timms Prize at the Essex Young Musician of the Year competition in 2019.

A keen composer since age 7, Alanna's passion for storytelling has produced a catalogue of emotive pieces and film score compositions. 'Princess Emma', a short film collaboration with her older sister, Keira, won a series of awards (including Best Original Score and the Grand Jury Prize Winner for Best Student Short at the Imagine Rain Independent Film Awards 2021). In October 2021, Alanna co-composed the music with Archie Jennings for the original score and movement piece 'Black & Blue', directed by Colette Brown of Four of Wands Productions and performed by Francisco Serano.

Alanna also frequently draws inspiration from the works of visual artists, such as those by Valerie Graniou-Cook, an intuitive artist and painter, who has presented an expanding number of her works alongside Alanna's compositions that were inspired by them.

In September 2022, Alanna joined the artists distributing music under Little Symphony Records and a growing collection of her original pieces is now accessible on all major music streaming services.

In January 2023, Alanna's piece 'Nocturne in D flat' was selected for publication by EVC Music in a new piano anthology inspired by Chopin's Nocturnes, scheduled for release in August 2023.

Alanna still loves to perform and has started to include her own pieces in recital programmes. She played an original piece 'Caverns' as a supporting act for Dominic Ferris at Crazy Coqs, London in 2021, another of her own pieces, 'Une Balade a Paris' at Elgar Room of Royal Albert Hall as part of the Elena Cobb Star Prize in April 2022 and two pieces 'Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose' and 'Morning' were included in her solo recital at Savile Club in June 2022. Most recently, she was invited to perform a recital of original compositions and classical music at The Portsmouth Grammar School for Ports Fest in June 2023.

Upcoming recitals include a solo recital at Lansdowne Club as part of Bluthner's Young Artist series in November 2023 and a guest performance at The Classical Best of Youth recital in Barbados in December 2023.

Alanna will play:

Alanna Crouch	Meditation: True North; The Cave; Water Strokes
Chopin	Preludes from Op. 28
Rachmaninoff	Prelude Op. 32. No. 12; Prelude Op. 23. No. 4
Bortkiewicz	Prelude Op. 13 No 5
Alanna Crouch	Figura Com Reposteiro: Late Afternoon, New York, Winter; October Prelude
Cervantes	La Cortesana; Cri Cri; El Velorio; Un Recuerdo

This event is open to Members & Friends of the Chopin Society only. A glass of wine will be offered afterwards. The concert is free, but the audience are invited to make a voluntary contribution (we suggest £10), which will be given to the pianist. **Seats must be reserved in advance**, as space is limited to 50. No seats will be available on the door. A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter for all those who are eligible.

JOIN THE CHOPIN SOCIETY AS A MEMBER NOW FOR HALF-PRICE. YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL RUN UNTIL MARCH 31st 2024

**YOU'LL GET FREE ENTRY TO
OUR STANDARD CONCERTS,
PRIORITY BOOKING FOR ANY SPECIAL EVENTS,
RECEIVE REGULAR NEWSLETTERS PLUS EMAIL
REMINDERS OF UPCOMING EVENTS,
AND BE ENTITLED TO TAKE PART IN - OR ATTEND -
OUR FAMOUS MEMBERS' MATINÉES
HELD IN PRIVATE HOUSES.**

***MEMBERSHIP FORMS AVAILABLE AT CONCERTS,
AND ON THE WEBSITE:
www.chopin-society.org.uk
Or you could
EMAIL info@chopin-society.org.uk
and we'll send a form for you to print out and fill in***

***NB. This offer only open to people
who have not been Members of the Society within the last 3 years.***

We cannot stop audience members taking photographs on their mobile phones.

But if you use flash, please wait until the pianist is acknowledging applause.

<u>Do not</u> photograph them when they are playing.

Thank you.

HURRAH!!!

We have

9,845

Facebook followers

facebook

Join them online for all the latest Chopin news, and photos of our events

www.facebook.com/ chopinsociety.org.uk

Please remember

to

SILENCE

Digital watches, Pagers etc. and SWITCH OFF Mobile phones <u>before</u> the Recital begins.

Thank you.

KEEP RIGHT UP TO DATE …

with the latest Chopin Society news & photos via our website and Facebook account.

Secretary Gill Newman will also be happy to email you with concert reminders if she has your email address. You do not need to be a member of the Society. So if you've only recently gone online—or changed email providers—do let her know.

We now need your permission to email you, and you can of course opt out at any time.

Be assured we will never share your email or postal address with third parties, being bound by the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

STAY FOR TEA
and meet the artist

'Tea' is in fact a generous buffet consisting of a variety of freshly made sandwiches with traditional fillings, (including veggie options), savouries, crisps and cheese straws. Then there's cakes and chocolate biscuits, all served with your choice of tea, coffee, fruit juice, mineral water or a glass of rather good wine.

It's nice to relax and chat too, and you'll find it easy to make new friends when you've all just listened to an excellent concert. The artists usually attend the tea and are happy to meet their audience. So why not give it a go! We can serve up to 70 people.

Tea tickets are a very reasonable £10, or £5 (students). Youth Members pay £4.

Book in advance: info@chopin-society.org.uk 0203 144 0033, or buy a tea ticket on the door on the day with cash or by cheque.

THE CHOPIN SOCIETY UK

97A Onslow Square, London SW7 3LU

UK Reg. Charity No. 271562. Founded 1971 by Lucie Swiatek

The President's Letter

1st August 2023

Dear Members & Friends,

First of all I would like to thank all those who have renewed their subscriptions.

While we are not quite up to the record numbers of last year—especially high because of the membership extending from 2020 to March 2023, we are nonetheless over 200 members at the present time, excluding Friends and Honorary Members, and expect to receive more renewals with this reminder, as well as the usual annual influx of "half-pricers".

I feel I should point out that half price membership is only available to new Members. People were Members during the period 2020-2023 are not eligible.

When the last newsletter went out in the Spring, Lara Melda had not yet given her concert of works by Beethoven, Liszt, Poulenc and Brahms, with a Chopin Nocturne and the B minor Sonata in the second half, which took place on 26th March.

I was amazed at how her playing had developed both musically and technically since she last played for us. She deserves to get to the top, and I hope she will receive the necessary help and encouragement to achieve this. She certainly got a very good audience, so obviously has a following.

Sofya Gulyak's concert on 30th April was another tour-de-force. This former Leeds winner has performed for us several times, and her playing shows all the freedom and power of the Russian School. Her programme included works by Clara and Robert Schumann, Brahms, Franck, and of course Chopin, with the rarely performed Variations brillantes Op.12 and two Valses. Her finale was Ravel's La Valse. A brilliant piece, brilliantly played. She also attracted a very good audience.

It is interesting to see how certain works crop up unexpectedly several times in a year. We do expect it with the Chopin Barcarolle or Sonata in B minor, but this year it is La Valse— technically an exceptionally difficult piece. Lucas Krupinski played it in January, Sofya in April and Vitaly Pisarenko will play it in September. I don't think anyone will mind, as it is so exciting!

Murray McLachlan's recital, scheduled for May 21st, did not in the end take place.

It was to have been preceded by the AGM, but we had barely got started when I was told that one of the members in attendance had collapsed. Peter Roberts, one of our most supportive and long-standing members had quietly fallen asleep and died.

He was one of my favourite members, and had several times played Chopin beautifully and with great style at our Members' Matinées. Always smart and elegantly dressed, he never missed an AGM, and this time had insisted on coming (his wife told me), even though he was 93 and always travelled by public transport.

I saw he had arrived early, and just before we started the Meeting he went to sit beside a friend of his, who later—seeing that he had dropped his agenda sheet—realised what had happened.

It was a shock for everyone there. I felt very sad that Peter had left us, but must admit it was a good and peaceful way to go.

Thankfully Co-Chairman Charles Grant took charge and rang 999. Soon there was an ambulance and four ambulance cars, followed by numerous police and the Cathedral Security people. Even a couple of priests. Some effort was made to revive Peter, to no avail.

Of course the Meeting had to be abandoned and the Hall vacated awaiting the arrival of the Coroner, and so there was no question of the concert taking place. Murray McLachlan very kindly waived his fee, and will now play the same programme for us on January 28th next year.

The rescheduled AGM will take place before Vitaly Pisarenko's recital on 24th September. All paid-up Members are invited, but AGMs are not open to Friends (Associate Members).

Meanwhile, on behalf of myself and the Chopin Society I would like to offer our sincere condolences to Mrs. Eileen Roberts and the Roberts family.

In the circumstances I do hope Members do not feel short changed by losing one of their free concerts, and not having one in June, but between 18th June and 2nd July we had an evening concert at Hatchlands Park, a Committee Meeting, the first Young Artist's Concert and a Members' Matinée, and we felt that was quite enough to cope with.

We have not held a concert at Hatchlands Park for quite a few years, mainly because it is an expensive undertaking and it is hard to cover costs.

Thanks to the very generous sponsorship of £2,000 from Dr. & Mrs. Jozef Przybylski and donations of £1,600 from Monsieur & Madame Richard Armand, plus £1,000 from Mrs. Elzbieta Stanhope, we felt we could take the risk, and with a sell-out with box office receipts amounting to £4,585 we were just able to break even.

This was an important concert for us as the Chopin Society has adopted the Chopin Pleyel played on the night, which is part of the magnificent Cobbe Collection.

Melvyn Tan was the pianist, and he certainly knows how to bring out the best in the instrument. His all-Chopin concert, including the Polonaise Fantaisie Op. 61 and the 24 Preludes Op. 28, was a great success.

The buffet in the interval, supplied by Standby Chef—otherwise known as Lunch is Ready—was really delicicious with lots of choice and plenty for everyone.

As always, Alec & Isobel Cobbe were wonderful hosts and Alec's illustrated talk on the Collection was a highlight of the evening.

All our thanks to Treasurer Angela Delbourgo, who once again kindly hosted the Committee Meeting on June 25th, this time in the communal gardens attached to her building. It was a particularly enjoyable occasion as the weather was lovely and we celebrated Secretary Gill Newman's 75th birthday with champagne and a wonderful cake expertly baked by Committee Member Angelica Cayzer Anelli.

Many subjects were discussed, and it was decided that, contrary to what we had originally said, that the tea price of £10 would include one glass of wine rather than two, but there would be more wine in the glasses!

We also expressed our gratitude to the memory of the late member Yvonne Clarke, a distinguished musician and great supporter of the Society, for leaving us a bequest of £10,000. This was paid by her lawyers into the Society's account on March 20th—my birthday.

Another very nice birthday present was a medal from the Polish Ministry of Education, for services to education. The medal was presented by the Deputy Minister of Education in a ceremony in the Little Brompton Oratory. Other recipients included Halina, Lady Munster; Mrs. Maria Byczynski of British Poles UK, and Mr. Justin Maciejewski DSO MBE, Director of the National Army Museum.

On 28th June, the first of the Chopin Society's Young Artist's concerts took place at Steinway Hall, with Adam Repa as soloist.

He gave an excellent performance of a difficult programme, including Bach, Chopin and four of Liszt'sTranscendental Studies. The event could not have been more of a success. A wonderful start to this new venture!

The next Young Artist's Recital will take place at Steinway Hall on 14th September at 6.30pm.

This time the pianist will be 16 year old Alanna Crouch, a remarkable talent who obtained her ABRSM Grade VIII at the age of 7. A natural pianist, she is also a gifted and imaginative composer. Alanna is a protegée of Craig Terry, Managing Director of Steinway & Sons in London, and he has kindly agreed to be in charge of her concert.

I do hope you will join us. This event is free and open to both Members and Friends, but booking is essential as space is strictly limited to 50 people.

The Members' Matinée at Petersham Lodge on 2nd July was a happy occasion.

People were delighted to see Princess Josephine looking much recovered from her

year of health setbacks which included pneumonia and a fractured spine.

The iron discipline of a her career as a former dancer with the Sadler's Wells (later Royal Ballet) Company has obviously stood her in good stead.

She was the perfect hostess and the tea was exceptionally delicious.

All our thanks to the Princess for such wonderful hospitality, and we hope she will be back to playing in a Matinée soon.

As usual with the Petersham Lodge Matinées, it was sold out months before the event, and we also had a record number of pianists applying to play.

With both audience and performers I accept the first to apply, as it is only fair, and this meant that some of the best pianists could not be included. Nevertheless the standard in the main was still very good.

David Pentecost, who played at one of the first Petersham Lodge Matinées 20 years ago, came over especially from Cyprus together with his friend Tatiana Stupak, a Russian pianist who runs a music school in Cyprus. She gave a marvellous performance of Chopin's first Ballade, its difficulties presenting no problem whatever to her. David played some of his own compositions, which were particularly attractive.

During the afternoon he filmed the proceedings, and is kindly offering to email any of the musicians with an MP3 video file of their performances. Also he has free CDs by Tatiana available for simply the cost of postage & packing.

Please contact David on *djpentecost@hotmail.com* if you want to take him up on either of these offers.

The Society's Legal Adviser, Leslie MacLeod-Miller, has very generously offered a special Christmas Members' Matinée at Carlisle Place on 10th December.

Leslie can seat more people than is possible at Petersham lodge, but the number of pianists who can play is much the same, as we do not want to concert to be too long.

The "free for members" concerts at Westminster Cathedral Hall this Autumn will be given by Vitaly Pisarenko on September 24th—preceded by the AGM; Piers Lane on 29th October, and Martino Tirimo on 26th November.

I mentioned the International Chopin Competition for Young Pianists which took place at Ognisko back in March in the last Newsletter, but neglected to mention the name of the first prizewinner of the senior category (16-19 years old), to whom the Chopin Society donated a prize of £1,000. She was Xinrui Quian and she won with virtuoso performances of the Etude in C sharp minor Op.10 No.4 and the fiendishly tricky Variations on "La ci darem la mano".

I very much hope she will play in our Young Artist Series in the future.

The Chopin Festival, organised by Chopin Society Member Janusz Sikora-Sikorski, will take place in POSK on 21st October. See page 7 for more details.

Assisted by Co-Chairman Charles Grant, who will read excepts from Chopin's letters, I will be giving a talk at 5.00pm downstairs in the Jazz Club on Chopin and George Sand's incident filled visit to Majorca in 1839.

Mateusz Borowiak, who many of you will remember as the pianist at the Chopin Society's Guildhall Gala in 2014, will be taking part in the Gala Concert that evening. Mateusz is now Assistant Professor of Piano at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland.

The Chopin Society is supporting the Festival by giving it free publicity.

I was very sorry to hear that Member John Hadler had recently died. He had joined the Society in 2011, was a charming gentleman, and attended many of our concerts. I think he was something of a piano connoisseur.

Recently a truly terrible tragedy happened when Alec & Isobel Cobbe's youngest son Henry was driving his two sons, Felix and Charles, down a rain-soaked motorway.

The car aquaplaned, went completely out of control and hit a parked lorry. Charles was killed and Henry and Felix seriously injured. It has been a great shock to everyone.

I think with sorrow of the lovely evening we passed at Hatchlands on the 18th June, and then only a few weeks later there was this appalling misfortune.

I am certain you will all join with me in sending our condolences to the Cobbe family and expressing just how sorry we are.

Alan Repa has kindly agreed to take on the running of the Young Artist Concerts and the Members' Matinées in his capacity as Assistant Artistic Director, and it is to him that applications for these events should be sent in future.

However I still retain some input with the programming of the Matinées.

This has been a long letter, but there was a lot of ground to cover!

Finally, on behalf of myself and the Committee I hope you are all having a good summer and look forward to seeing you in the Autumn for another tranche of excellent music-making.

Yours sincerely,

Rose Cholmondeley

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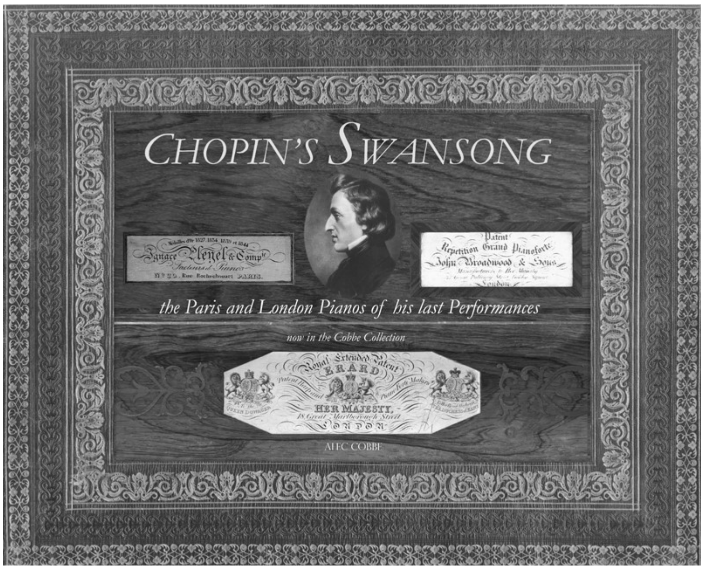

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During the membership year of 2022-23 THE CHOPIN SOCIETY of the UK had 365 Patrons, Honorary Members, Life Members, Members and Friends. It offers monthly piano recitals plus occasional talks, Galas and other special events in venues across London. In 2023-24 we are presenting another superb series of concerts with excellent artists.

Our piano - a 2015 Steinway Model B Grand, was chosen for us in Hamburg by Steinway's Head of Concert & Artists' Services, Ulrich Gerhartz, and President Rose Cholmondeley, assisted by Craig Terry, Managing Director of Steinway's in London. It is maintained by Steinway & Sons, who tune it before each recital and service it regularly. The piano is housed at Westminster Cathedral Hall.

Programmes always include works by Chopin, with some consisting entirely of Chopin. We engage established international pianists and a selection of the best of the new generation of professionals, as well as—from time to time—respected lecturers and Chopin specialists.

In addition to our regular concert series we also give amateur, professional and student pianists the opportunity to play several times a year at Members' Matinées, held in private houses in Greater London. These extremely popular events are not open to the general public. Only Members and their guests may attend if they have bought tickets, but pianists come free. You must be a paid-up Member of the Society to perform in Members' Matinées. No fees are paid to performers on these occasions and they do not count as professional engagements.

Most of our concerts are followed by an informal Reception and buffet tea consisting of freshly-made sandwiches, savouries, chocolate biscuits and homemade cakes, accompanied by quality wine, coffee, tea, juice or mineral water, plus the chance to meet the artist and also make new friends. An extra charge is made for this if you wish to stay for it (see page 14). We can cater for up to 70.

For information on joining The Chopin Society go to our website www.chopin-society.org.uk Click on the "Join the Society" link on the homepage, and download an application form, or ask at any recital.

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For enquiries give Secretary Gillian Newman a ring on 0203 144 0033 or email her: info@chopin-society.org.uk

Please note: no concerts take place at Onslow Square.

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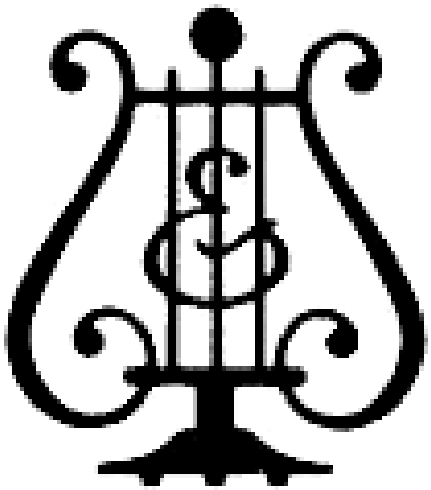

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